

AUG 25 1997

CHAPTER 2

KENNEL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

- 2-1. Kenneling Requirements.
- 2-2. Kennel Construction and Approval.
- 2-3. Kennel Maintenance.
- 2-4. Military Working Dog (MWD) Emergency Evacuation Plan.
- 2-5. Training Area Maintenance.
- 2-6. Kennel Safety.
- 2-7. Leaving MWDs Unattended.
- 2-8. MWD Equipment.
- 2-9. Equipment Maintenance.
- 2-10. Off-Limits Signs.

AUG 25 1997

## CHAPTER 2

## KENNEL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

2-1. Kenneling Requirements. Before Military Working Dogs (MWDs) are assigned to a command, suitable kennel facilities must be provided. Various factors such as the health and comfort of MWDs must be considered in the construction of kennels and runs as well as management and safety factors. When necessary to use civilian kenneling, commanding officers will ensure MWDs are afforded adequate security and safety. MWDs will not be kenneled at the handler's quarters except in cases of emergency and then only with approval of the commanding officer.

2-2. Kennel Construction and Approval. After authority has been received to establish a MWD program at a command, plans and detailed cost estimates will be forwarded via the chain of command to the appropriate Echelon 2 commander for approval. Kennel designs for various climates are available from the 341st Training Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base. Kennel facilities will be constructed following criteria listed in appendix D.

2-3. Kennel Maintenance. Proper maintenance of kennels reduces overall operating costs. Kennel runs will be thoroughly cleaned once a day with wash downs as needed. Only kennel cleaning solutions approved by the U.S. Army veterinarian may be used. Conduct daily inspections and correct minor discrepancies before they become major problems. Any discrepancies that cannot be readily corrected will be reported to the proper authority.

2-4. MWD Emergency Evacuation Plan. Written procedures for evacuation of MWDs in case of fire or natural disaster will be included in departmental Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

2-5. Training Area Maintenance. Training areas must be kept clean and vegetation closely trimmed. Fecal matter must be removed immediately. Dogs should not be allowed to urinate/defecate in the training area.

2-6. Kennel Safety. Safety of MWDs, handlers, and visitors to kennels is paramount. Specific safety measures include:

AUG 25 1997

a. Running and other quick movements should be avoided in and around the kennel area. Such actions will startle the MWDs, and could create harmful situations to animals and personnel in the area.

b. Maintain control of MWDs when moving from one place to another within the kennel area.

c. Ensure all gates and doors to the runs are secured when MWDs are inside.

d. Use extreme care while cleaning, feeding, and watering dogs that you are not familiar with.

e. In the event that a loose dog appears in the area, the first person to notice the animal must give the alarm, "loose dog," and everyone in the area, except the loose dog's handler, must immediately apply a muzzle on their dogs, kneel and hold the dog close to their chest with the dogs' heads beneath their arms. The handler will then retrieve the loose dog and secure it.

f. Allow a safe distance of at least 15 feet between MWDs and any other dogs/persons in the area. When it becomes necessary to approach other dog teams, MWDs must be held on short leashes. This is done to ensure that MWD teams do not come into contact with one another. Kennel areas are planned for a one-way traffic system so that no two dogs are brought face-to-face. This system will be observed at all times.

g. Handlers with MWDs on leash must give an audible warning upon entering/leaving the kennel area and at any time there is an obstructed view. They must call out, "dog coming through," "in," "around," or "by" as appropriate.

h. Handlers will not hit, kick or strike a MWD with any object with the intent to harm. Use of shock collar, relaxation collar, or "Schutzhund" pinch collar are forbidden.

i. While moving to/from designated training areas, and during break and grooming periods, handlers must always keep

AUG 25 1997

their leashes looped over their wrists. This precaution helps to prevent the leash from slipping out of a handler's grasp.

j. To pass articles to another person, handlers will place the articles on the ground and take their MWDs from the immediate area so that another person can safely retrieve the articles.

k. Handlers will not tie their MWDs to any object with the leash as MWDs are capable of chewing through the leash gaining freedom. Additionally, never tie a MWD to a vehicle. The MWD could be injured if the vehicle is moved.

l. MWDs will never be staked out and left unobserved.

m. Many MWDs have a natural desire to fight other dogs when they are brought together. It is important to follow safe procedures when breaking up a dogfight. Breaking up a dogfight is a two-man project; no one should attempt to accomplish it alone. Fighting MWDs should never be pulled apart. Pulling them apart may cause a ripping and tearing of the flesh and may disable the dogs. In breaking up a dogfight handlers will:

(1) Keep their leashes taut and gradually work their hands toward the snap of the leash.

(2) Hold the snap end of the leash firmly with one hand and slip the other hand underneath the MWDs collar.

(3) Grasp the collar tightly.

(4) Grab the throats of their MWDs with their other hand at a point just below the MWDs lower jaw.

(5) Choke their MWD until the air supply is cut off, thus forcing the MWD to release its hold.

n. If a handler is bitten by a MWD, use the same procedure to effect a release as used to separate two fighting MWDs. Never

AUG 25 1997

attempt to jerk away from the MWD because this action may cause a serious wound.

o. Handlers can avoid being bitten by their own dogs. If the MWD attempts to bite, grab the leash close to the dog's neck, hold the animal's front feet off the ground, extend arms to push the MWD away, and at the same time, slowly turn in a circle to keep the MWD off balance. These procedures keep the dog from seriously harming its handler and is a means for the handler to rebuke the MWD from attempting to attack.

p. Handlers should follow safety practices when presenting their MWDs to a veterinary officer for examination/treatment. The handler must keep in mind that the MWD is in strange surroundings, among strange people, for treatment that is unusual and sometimes painful. This is an abnormal situation for the MWD, and its behavior may not be as the handler expects. Therefore, the handler must be alert and prepared to control the animal while medical care is being provided.

q. MWD teams may be called upon to work in close proximity of each other during certain tasks such as explosive detection, building search, and crowd control formations; therefore, socialization training should be conducted. Socialization training between MWDs should be done slowly using successive approximation, never allowing MWDs to physically come in contact with each other. The objective is to condition the MWDs to perform their mission tasks without being distracted by or aggressive toward other dogs or persons in close proximity. Contact MWD program managers staff for additional guidance on socialization training.

2-7. Leaving MWDs Unattended. MWDs should not be left unattended except when they are housed in their kennels or in emergency situations. During an emergency, the following rules will be observed:

a. Use only the leather collar and a kennel chain to stake out a MWD. Do not use the choke chain and leash.

AUG 25 1997

b. Do not stake out a MWD where it could injure itself or others.

c. Make sure that the MWD has shade during hot weather.

d. Check the MWD often to make sure that it is not in distress.

2-8. MWD Equipment. Each piece of equipment has been designated for a specific purpose. The handler must be acquainted with the items, and how/why they are used. Equipment available through normal supply channels is located in appendix E. Additional equipment necessary to effectively train MWDs can be purchased through local canine equipment distributors.

2-9. Equipment Maintenance. Safety is the first consideration in the maintenance of MWD equipment. An inspection of all equipment should be conducted daily. Any equipment which is found to be unserviceable must be repaired/replaced immediately.

a. Leather. To prevent the leash, collar, and muzzle from becoming dry/brittle, saddle soap/neat's foot oil should be applied using a damp cloth. Rub neat's foot oil, as well as saddle soap, into the leather with the fingers until the leather is soft and pliable. When not in use, all leather items should be kept in a dry location.

b. Metal. Metal equipment/parts of equipment should be inspected daily. Remove spots of rust by rubbing them with a fine grade of steel wool until all rust has been removed. Apply a coat of an edible oil to prevent rust from returning. Avoid leaving metal equipment in wet/damp areas. If an item of equipment becomes badly rusted, it should be replaced. Rusted water buckets should be replaced.

2-10. Off-Limits Signs. As a crime prevention measure naval installations using MWDs for law enforcement and physical security duties will have MWD warning signs, made of a reflective material, posted at all ingress points. The wording will be red and black lettering and read as follows:

OPNAVINST 5585.2B

AUG 25 1997

WARNING  
THIS PROPERTY PATROLLED BY  
MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS

Additionally, all sides of the kennels and training areas will be posted with "Off-Limits" signs as noted in paragraph 1e of appendix D.